

Production No. 8F06

The Simpsons

"LISA'S PONY"

Written by

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FINAL DELIVERY

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"LISA'S PONY"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA
HOMER-APE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
YOUNG HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
BABY LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
BURNS.....HARRY SHEARER
SMITHERS.....HARRY SHEARER
PRINCIPAL SKINNER.....HARRY SHEARER
APU.....HANK AZARIA
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARTIN.....RUSSI TAYLOR
JIMBO.....TRESS MACNEILLE
NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
KEARNY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
MILLICENT.....TRESS MACNEILLE
MAYOR QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
NED FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER

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GROUNDKEEPER WILLY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
BLEEDING GUMS MURPHY.....HARRY SHEARER
DORIS THE LUNCHLADY.....DORIS GRAU
LITTLE MAN.....HARRY SHEARER
CHUCK.....TRESS MACNEILLE
FEMALE CLERK.....PAMELA HAYDEN
PRINCESS CASHMERE.....PAMELA HAYDEN
SALES CLERK.....HANK AZARIA
TEENAGER.....HARRY SHEARER
KEVIN.....TRESS MACNEILLE
RALPH.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
ELDERLY TALK SHOW HOST..HARRY SHEARER
BOY.....DAN CASTELLANETA

LISA'S PONY

By

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

SUPER: THE DAWN OF MAN

A bunch of APES are squatting and **GRUNTING** on the African plain. We see ONE who looks a lot like Homer.

MUSIC: HEAVENLY CHOIR

The black monolith from 2001: A Space Odyssey has appeared on the plain. The apes approach the slab curiously and touch it, **GRUNTING** and **HOOTING**.

MUSIC: THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA

Suddenly one ape picks up a bone and uses it like a hammer. Another **BANGS** two stones together to make a small fire. A third is tinkering with a crude stone wheel. **PAN OVER** to see the Homer-ape who is looking at the monolith. He gets an idea.

HOMER-APE

(**INSPIRED**) Oooh.

The Homer-ape lies against the monolith, and begins to take a snooze. He has invented **GOOFING OFF**.

HOMER-APE

(**ADJUSTING HIMSELF**) Ahhh.

The Homer-ape drifts off to sleep, **SNORING**.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT -- DAY

HOMER is **SNORING** in his chair at work, with his feet propped up on the console. He makes ape-like **GRUNTS** in his sleep.

PLANT MUZAK: THE BLUE DANUBE WALTZ

SFX: PHONE RING

Homer wakes with a **START** and picks up the phone.

HOMER

(APE NOISES, INTO:) Y'ello.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE

LISA wears a formal dress as she talks on the phone. Behind her other acts are getting ready for the school talent show. One BOY "plays" Lara's Theme on glasses of water by RUBBING THE RIMS.

LISA

(INTO PHONE) Dad, I'm calling about
the school talent show.

INTERCUT

HOMER

(INTO PHONE) Don't worry, I know it's
tonight.

Homer glances over to see "Talent Show 7:00" on his nuclear workers pin-up calendar. On it, "Miss Atomic Pile" wears a bikini and work gloves, and fondles a glowing plutonium rod.

LISA

(URGENTLY) No. Dad, I broke my last
saxophone reed, and I need you to get
me a new one.

HOMER

Uh... isn't this the kind of thing your
mother's better at?

LISA

I called her. She's not home. I also tried Mr. Flanders, Aunt Patty, Aunt Selma, Dr. Hibbert, Reverend Lovejoy and that nice man who caught the snake in our basement.

HOMER

Wow! And after them, out of all the people in the world, you chose me. Uh huh, yeah, number four and a half reed.

Homer writes "4 1/2 REED" on the bottom of his shoe. Next to it on the shoe is a hole with an arrow pointing to it labelled, "Fix This."

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

PRINCIPAL SKINNER addresses the CROWD.

SKINNER

Well, you're in for a whale of a show tonight. I'd like to point out that the doors are now locked, so you parents can't sneak out of the show after your own child has performed. Oh, and let me caution the people in the first five rows, you will get wet.

EXT. MUSIC STORE - EVENING

Homer runs up to a store labeled "King Toot's Music Store", with a picture of an Egyptian Pharaoh playing a trumpet. Below it a sign reads "Open 10 to 7". Homer looks at his watch -- it reads 6:55.

HOMER

Whew! Just in the nick of... mmm,
beer?

WIDEN to see Moe's Tavern is next to the music store.
Homer wrestles with his conscience for a beat, then dashes
into Moe's.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Moe is fixing Homer a draft beer.

HOMER

Hurry, Moe, hurry! I've only got five
minutes till the music store closes.

MOE

Why don't you go there first?

HOMER

Hey, do I tell you how to do your job?

MOE

Sorry, Homer.

HOMER

You know, if you tip the glass, there
won't be so much foam on top.

MOE

Sorry, Homer.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM

We see an acrobatic KOREAN STUDENT juggling a ring on his
foot while balancing on one hand atop a chair. PAN DOWN to
see that the chair is precariously perched on a stack of
five other chairs. There is tepid **APPLAUSE**.

ANGLE ON TALENT SHOW JUDGES

Seated at a table, with notepads are GROUNDSKEEPER WILLY,
DORIS the lunchlady and BLEEDING GUMS MURPHY.

DORIS

This is a whole lotta nothin'.

WILLY

(ANGRY) I'd rather be watching the
boilers!

BACK TO SCENE

The Korean student is dragging the chairs offstage.

SKINNER

Oh well, make sure you return those
chairs to the cafeteria, Kim. I'm not
kidding. (TO AUDIENCE) Our next act
is a well-behaved young man who gets
good grades. I give you Martin Prince
as Professor A-Plus Von Genius!

MARTIN strides out in a cap and gown. We see JIMBO, KEARNY
and DOLPH in the audience, **SNICKERING**.

MARTIN

I will now answer any question -- any
question at all. From the fields of
History, Literature, Mythology, The
Dance...

JIMBO

How much do you weigh, Tubbo?

MARTIN

(SMUGLY) In pounds, kilograms, or
pennyweights?

KEARNY

Whichever way you're the fattest!

Kids LAUGH.

MARTIN

(DEFENSIVE) I'll have you know I'm
down to the lowest size of husky pants.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

A LITTLE MAN is drinking next to Homer, who is finishing his beer.

HOMER

(LOOKING AT WATCH) Ah. Finished with
fifteen seconds to spare.

EXT. MOE'S TAVERN

A satisfied Homer walks out of Moe's WHISTLING. Then he SHRIEKS when he sees the music store is closed, gated, and locked.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN

Homer bolts back in and starts BANGING his head on the bar.

LITTLE MAN

(CONCERNED) What's the matter, buddy?

HOMER

The moron next door closed early!

LITTLE MAN

(STIFFENING) I happen to be that
moron.

HOMER

Could you open up for me? Please,
please, please, please pleezee.

LITTLE MAN

Oh, I could if I wasn't such a moron.

HOMER

Ohh, me and my trenchant mouth.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM

MILHOUSE is on stage, **PLAYING** "Sweet Georgia Brown" on his hands, his head, and on his teeth with a spoon. Offstage Skinner talks to MRS. KRABAPPEL.

SKINNER

Terrible, just terrible. You know,
they seem to get worse every year.

Milhouse finishes and staggers off groggily, as Skinner comes out **APPLAUDING**.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Wonderful. I think this is the best
batch we've ever had. I really do.
And now, here's Bart Simpson, The Boy
of a Thousand Voices.

Bart enters.

BART

I'd like to open with my impression of
Principal Skinner.

Bart turns his back to the audience in Rich Little style, then turns back -- he has a moronic drooling expression, with one finger up his nose and the other arm dragging like Quasimodo.

BART (CONT'D)

(IDIOT VOICE) Duh, look at me, I'm
Principal Skinner.

The KIDS in the crowd **GO APE**. In the wings, Principal Skinner turns to Mrs. Krabappel.

SKINNER

That young man just became the Boy of a
Thousand Days Detention.

BART

(NORMAL VOICE) Hey, it's Lunchlady
Doris. I wonder what she's got for us
today. (HOLDING NOSE) Today's special
is refried dog poop.

ANGLE ON JUDGES

BLEEDING GUMS

(CHUCKLES)

He writes a "10" on his scoresheet.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Homer is pleading with the music store owner.

HOMER

Please, you've got to open that store.

LITTLE MAN

Let me think about it... Eh... No.

HOMER

That's it. I want you to see a picture
of the little girl you're
disappointing. (GOES THROUGH HIS
WALLET) Well I don't have one.

MOE

(TO LITTLE MAN) Come on, Jer. Open up. Be a pal. Remember when I pulled you and your wife out of that burning car?

LITTLE MAN

(GRUDGINGLY) Okay. Okay. But now we're even. (TO HOMER) So what does your daughter need?

HOMER

(SMOOTHLY) I'll have you know, I wrote it down.

Homer clumsily hops up and down on one leg as he reads the bottom of his shoe.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Number Four and a half -- Stupid gum!

Homer pulls a piece of gum off the bottom of his shoe.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Number Four and a Half reed! Whoo hoo!

LITTLE MAN

Uh-huh. And what instrument does she play?

HOMER

(SUNK) I dunno.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Onstage, SHERRI -- in spangled tights -- is strapped to a rotating wheel. A blindfolded TERRI is throwing knives at her.

HOMER

(SUNK) I dunno.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Onstage, SHERRI -- in spangled tights -- is strapped to a rotating wheel. A blindfolded TERRI is throwing knives at her.

ANGLE ON AUDIENCE

Lisa walks up to Marge and tugs at her sleeve.

LISA

Mom, where is he? If I don't get that reed I'll sound terrible.

MARGE

Don't worry, honey, I'm sure your father is...

A dreamcloud appears above Marge as she pictures what might have happened to Homer.

A) We see Homer changing a tire on the side of the freeway.

MARGE (V.O. CONT'D)

Maybe.

B) We see Homer in a tree with a bear GROWLING underneath.

MARGE (V.O. CONT'D)

No.

C) Inside a space ship, aliens with big brains are about to dissect Homer.

MARGE (V.O. CONT'D)

That's a long shot.

D) We see Homer in a bar. He dully downs a beer and points to the glass for a refill.

INT. MUSIC STORE

The music store owner holds up various instruments to see which one Lisa plays.

LITTLE MAN

Clarinet?

HOMER

No.

LITTLE MAN

Oboe?

HOMER

No.

LITTLE MAN

Saxophone?

HOMER

No!... Wait a minute. What was that
last one again?

LITTLE MAN

Saxophone?

HOMER

Hmm. (IMITATING HIMSELF, ANGRY) "Lisa
stop playing that stupid... saxophone!"
Yes! That's it!

LITTLE MAN

Alto or tenor?

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

CHUCK is SINGING.

CHUCK

(SINGING) My ding-a-ling / My ding-a-
ling / I want you to play with my ding-
a-ling --

Skinner runs on stage, flustered.

SKINNER

This act is over! (CLEARS THROAT)
Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to
put this filth behind us, and let's all
enjoy Lisa Simpson's rendition of
"Stormy Leather -- ah, Weather."

Lisa nervously walks onstage and begins to **PLAY** "Rhapsody
in Blue." After a few notes, she hits a **SQUEAKY** note.

NELSON

Haw haw!

Shaken, Lisa continues **PLAYING**, hitting more **SQUEAKY SOUR
NOTES**. The audience members **GRIMACE** and **WINCE**. Several
people put their hands to their ears. **CLOSE ON JASPER** as
he turns his hearing aid off.

GROUNDSKEEPER WILLY

Sounds like that gopher I caught in me
lawnmower.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - AT THAT MOMENT

Homer is rushing to the auditorium clutching the reed. He
HEARS the horrible music.

HOMER

Whew, I'd hate to be that kid's father.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Homer walks in and sees Lisa on stage.

HOMER

Uh-oh.

Skinner comes back on stage. He gestures for Lisa to stop.

SKINNER

That'll do.

LISA

(SADLY) It's not my fault. It's the
reed.

SKINNER

(VERY PATRONIZING) Oh yes, of course.

It's the reed.

Lisa leaves the stage.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Let's hear it for Lisa Simpson and her
wacky sax.

Homer starts to **APPLAUD** and **YELL**. Everyone in the audience
looks at him. He **STOPS**. Marge **MURMURS** angrily.

INT. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY - BACKSTAGE - AFTER THE SHOW

Homer is wandering around backstage. He stops a KID
dressed as the Jackson 5 - he is flanked by four life-size
dummies.

HOMER

Hey, any of you guys seen Lisa Simpson?

The kid and four dummies point in unison. We see Lisa
sadly dismantling her sax and putting it away.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Lisa, would you like some ice cream?

LISA

No.

BART

I'd like some ice cream.

HOMER

Shut up, boy. You know, Lisa, I did
get your reed. I was just a little
late.

LISA

Thank you, Dad. All this night needed
was a tinge of irony.

Homer looks crushed and MOANS.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

EXT. PHINEAS Q. BUTTERFAT'S 5600 FLAVORS ICE CREAM PARLOR -
ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

We SEE a drawing of Phineas Q. Butterfat with a handle bar mustache, riding an 1890's bicycle with a big front wheel, eating an ice cream cone. Beneath it is a pimply faced ponytailed TEENAGE EMPLOYEE wearing a straw boater and smoking a cigarette. He pushes a wheelbarrow with a huge ice cream sundae on it up to Homer and Lisa's table.

TEENAGER

Okay, who ordered the Mount Bellyache?

HOMER

(SWEETLY) I ordered it for my little
girl. Heh... heh.

The employee sets it down in front of a sullen Lisa. She takes one small bite.

LISA

I'm done.

HOMER

(MOANS) That cost eighty-eight dollars!

LISA

I'm sorry dad, I don't feel much like
eating.

HOMER

Look, I let you down and I apologize.
I know that doesn't make it right, but
I hope you can find it in your heart to
forgive me.

LISA

I forgive you.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT) You didn't mean that!

LISA

No. I didn't.

Homer lets out a little SIGH

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Homer is sadly watching home videos.

ON TV

We see a smiling BABY LISA walking unsteadily.

MARGE (V.O.)

Look Homer, Lisa's taking her first
steps.

PAN OVER to a YOUNGER HOMER watching "Fantasy Island" on
TV.

YOUNG HOMER

(NOT LOOKING UP) You taping it?

MARGE (V.O.)

Yes.

YOUNG HOMER

I'll watch it later.

Baby Lisa toddles in front of the television. Homer
brusquely picks her up and sets her down to one side. Her
smile fades.

CUT TO:

We see BABY LISA in a high chair.

BABY LISA

Da-da. Da-da.

MARGE (V.O.)

Did you hear that, Homer?

PAN OVER to Homer, strangling a 3-YEAR-OLD BART, who
CHOKES.

YOUNG HOMER

Marge, please, I'm busy.

BACK TO SCENE

A tear rolls down Homer's cheek. Marge enters.

HOMER

No wonder she hates me. (SOBBING) She
hates me. I never paid any attention
to her.

MARGE

Homer, Lisa loves you.

HOMER

Does not.

MARGE

Does to.

HOMER

Does not!

MARGE

Does to!

HOMER

Does not!

MARGE

Does to. This is childish.

HOMER

Is not.

MARGE

Is to.

HOMER

Is not.

MARGE

Is to!

HOMER

Is not.

MARGE

Is to! Homer, if you want to make up
with Lisa just spend some time with
her. Do things with her, show her you
care.

HOMER

(LONG PAINFUL MOAN)

MONTAGE

1) Homer, perched in a tiny chair, is having a "tea party" with Lisa -- drinking out of tiny teacups, eating imaginary cookies, etc. Bart and Milhouse appear at the door behind Homer. They mimic him and **LAUGH** uproariously. Homer lunges for them, upsetting the tea table.

2) Lisa's in a plastic playhouse looking through the window sadly. Homer is trying to squeeze through the doorway and gets stuck. He stands up, lifting the house off its foundation.

3) Homer is pushing Lisa on a swing. He pushes her higher and higher. Homer gives a mighty shove and **GROANS** with exertion. The swing flies out of frame -- when it comes back into frame, it's empty. Homer looks embarrassed.

4) Homer has just washed Lisa's hair and is now combing and **BLOW-DRYING** it.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marge and Homer are in bed.

HOMER

Maybe I should just cut my losses, give up on Lisa, and make a fresh start with Maggie.

MARGE

Homie, you've got to stop looking for the quick fix. If you keep spending time with Lisa, she'll forgive you..

HOMER

Marge, if I spend any more time doing these girl things, I'm gonna -- you know -- go fruity. (MAKES FLITTING GESTURES) No, you were right the first time with that quick fix idea. I know! I'll get her that pony she's always bugging me for.

MARGE

We can't afford to buy a pony.

HOMER

(SAGELY) Marge, with today's gasoline prices, we can't afford not to buy a pony.

MARGE

That's ridiculous.

HOMER

Marge, I've got to get her a pony.
When I look in Lisa's eyes, I don't see
love anymore.

MARGE

That's no reason to buy a pony!

HOMER

See, even when you yell at me, I can
see love in your eyes.

MARGE

Stick to the subject.

HOMER

Ha ha, you love me.

MARGE

(SIGHS) Let's be realistic. A pony is
very expensive and we have enough
trouble paying bills as it is.

HOMER

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MARGE

You sound like you're going to buy a
pony. Promise me you won't.

HOMER

Mm.

MARGE

What was that? Was that a yes or a no?

HOMER

Buh.

MARGE

Those aren't even words!

HOMER

Sneh.

Homer rolls over and turns the light off. Marge MURMURS.

INT. SPRINGFIELD MALL - "ALL CREATURES GREAT AND CHEAP" PET SHOP - ESTABLISHING

INT. PET SHOP - CONTINUOUS

A SALESCLERK is leaning on a sign that says, "You Pet It, You Bought It." He's surrounded by CHATTERING BIRDS, DOGS, etc. He wrinkles his nose.

SALESCLERK

(CHARLES BRONSON VOICE) Oh my, what is that smell?

Homer taps him on the shoulder.

SALESCLERK (CONT'D)

Oh, it's you.

HOMER

Excuse me, do you sell ponies?

SALESCLERK

Uh, sure pal, right here.

He indicates a GIANT DOG in a glass case.

HOMER

(READING LABEL) "Scot-tish deer-hound." Hey, this is a dog!

SALESCLERK

My friend, you're smarter than I gave you credit for. I suggest you try the pony farm on Route 401. Merely take a left at the rendering plant.

HOMER

Thanks. Say, do you validate parking?

SALESCLERK

Not unless you buy something.

HOMER

(SOURLY) Okay.

Homer picks up a small rubber bone and squeezes it. It **SQUEAKS**.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Heh, heh, heh. I'll take this.

Homer repeatedly **SQUEEZES** it and **LAUGHS** until he notices the salesclerk staring at him.

HOMER (CONT'D)

It's for my dog!

SALESCLERK

Sure it is, pal.

EXT. PONY RANCH - ESTABLISHING

Homer's car drives under a sign reading "The Grateful Gelding Stables."

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Homer is being shown around by **MILLICENT**, a Katharine Hepburn-type.

MILLICENT

Mr. Simpson, what sort of pony are you interested in?

HOMER

One that's real quiet, and doesn't eat or drink too much.

MILLICENT

Sir, what you have just described is a camel.

HOMER

Look, lady, I'm buying this pony for my little girl, and I don't care what it costs.

MILLICENT

(POINTING TO PONY) Very good. That stunning creature over there is half a million dollars.

HOMER

(SHOCKED) Half a million dollars?!

MILLICENT

He was sired by Secretariat and his mother won the Kentucky Derby.

HOMER

Wow!

MILLICENT

His likeness graces a stamp in Tanzania...

HOMER

I'll take it!

MILLICENT

(DUBIOUS) Mr. Simpson, do you have
half a million dollars?

HOMER

Uh, sure... let me write you a check.

Homer writes out a check and hands it to Millicent.

MILLICENT

Mr. Simpson, this check is dated
January 1, 2054.

HOMER

Is there a problem with that?

Millicent stuffs the check back in Homer's pocket.

MILLICENT

(COLDLY) Our ponies start at five
thousand dollars. Cash.

Homer starts to leave, then turns.

HOMER

(WEAKLY) Isn't there like a pound
where you can pick up cheap ponies that
ran away from home?

MILLICENT

I sincerely hope not.

INT. NUCLEAR PLANT - DAY

Homer walks down a corridor of the plant. He enters a door
labeled, "Employee Credit Union - Ask About Our Payroll
Docking Plan."

INT. EMPLOYEE CREDIT UNION - CONTINUOUS

Homer hands a loan application to a FEMALE CLERK behind a dingy counter.

HOMER

I'd like to borrow five thousand dollars.

FEMALE CLERK

Sorry, I can't approve a loan that size myself.

She DINGS a desktop bell. MR. BURNS and SMITHERS appear behind the counter.

BURNS

Hel-lo.

HOMER

(SHRIEKS)

BURNS

(LOOKING AT FORM) Simpson, eh? How can I help you?

HOMER

Mr. Burns, you do this personally?

BURNS

It's a hobby. I'm not in this for any personal gain, heavens no. By the way, are you acquainted with our state's stringent usury laws?

HOMER

(STRUGGLING WITH WORD) U-su-ry?

BURNS

Silly me, I must have just made up a word that doesn't exist. Now, what is the purpose of this loan?

HOMER

I want to buy a pony.

BURNS

Isn't that cute? Smithers, he's planning on joining the horsey set. (SUSPICIOUS) That is it, isn't it? You're not planning to eat it?

HOMER

No. I need to get it for my little girl because she doesn't love me any more.

SMITHERS

Shut up, Simpson.

HOMER

Sorry.

SMITHERS

Do you have any collateral?

BURNS

Smithers, let's not be so cold. His spirit is my collateral. (SLIDING FORM TO HOMER) Just sign this form and the money will be yours.

Burns LAUGHS evilly, then catches himself.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(COVERING) Sorry, I was just, uh,
thinking of something funny Smithers
did today.

SMITHERS

I didn't do anything funny, sir.

BURNS

Shut up.

Homer finishes signing the form.

EXT. "GRATEFUL GELDING STABLES"

Millicent is counting a fat wad of bills. We hear Homer's
GRUNTS and pony WHINNIES O.S.

MILLICENT

Mr. Simpson, are you quite sure you
know how to take care of a pony?

HOMER (O.S.)

(GRUNTING) Of course.

WIDEN to see Homer is shoving the pony into the back seat
of his car.

INT. HOMER'S CAR - NIGHT

Homer drives happily.

HOMER

Simpson, you've done it again.

PAN to the backseat. The pony is MUNCHING the car's
upholstery.

BURNS (CONT'D)

(COVERING) Sorry, I was just, uh,
thinking of something funny Smithers
did today.

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upholstery.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - SUNRISE

MUSIC: OMINOUS

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LISA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lisa awakens, then looks beside her. There is a pony's head on the pillow beside her a la The Godfather. She **SCREAMS**, waking the pony which licks her face. Lisa pulls back the blanket revealing the rest of the horse. She hugs it joyfully, **GASPS**, then **SIGHS** contentedly..

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Homer and Marge awaken when the door **CRASHES** open - Lisa rides in on her pony.

LISA

I love you, Dad!

Homer smiles - she means it. Marge **MURMURS**. The horse **REARS** in a dramatic pose. Lisa **GALLOPS OFF** to the **THEME** from "The Magnificent Seven" **SCREAMING**.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - STAIRWAY - MORNING

Marge and Homer are coming down in their nightclothes.

MARGE

(**ANNOYED MURMUR**) I am very upset
with you.

HOMER

(**COYLY**) Sounds like someone's
angling for a pony of her own.

They enter the **KITCHEN** and Marge **GASPS**.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN

The kids are eating breakfast as the pony **CLOMPs** around the kitchen. Lisa strokes it and feeds it sugar from the sugar bowl.

BART

Hey, how come Lisa gets a pony?

HOMER

Because she stopped loving me.

BART

I don't love you either. So give me
a moped.

Homer looks in Bart's eyes.

HOMER

I know you love me. So you don't get
squat. Hee hee hee.

Lisa introduces the pony to the dog and cat.

LISA

Snowball II... Santa's Little
Helper... this is Princess. Please
don't exclude her because she's
different.

Maggie dips her pacifier in her food and lets the horse
SUCK on it. Marge re-enters.

MARGE

(ANGRY) Homer, just where were you
planning to keep this horse?

HOMER

(SMUGLY) I've got it all figured
out. By day it will roam free around
the neighborhood. And at night it
will nestle snugly between the cars
in our garage.

LISA

Dad, no!

MARGE

That's illegal.

HOMER

That's for the courts to decide.

(CORNER OF HIS MOUTH) Marge, she
loves me.

LISA

Dad, I think Princess belongs in a
stable.

HOMER

Stable? (TO HIMSELF) That sounds
expensive.

SMASH CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - THE BILL

It is an itemized list totalling \$530 for the coming month.
Homer lowers the paper to REVEAL we are at the stables.
Lisa rides around in the b.g.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SHUDDERS)

MILLICENT

These are standard stable fees, Mr.
Simpson. Plus, I'm teaching your
daughter riding, grooming, and at no
extra charge, pronunciation.

LISA

(LIKE KATHARINE HEPBURN) Father,
you've made me the happiest girl who
ever lived.

HOMER

Oh nuts.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

GRAMPA is playing a video game as Bart coaches him. ON SCREEN a spaceship is being ATTACKED by missiles, asteroids and the occasional Ninja.

GRAMPA

(PANICKED) What do I do? What do I
do?

BART

Grampa, if you wanna go right,

GRAMPA

Yes...

BART

... move your joystick to the left.

GRAMPA

Yes, move the... what's a joystick?
You didn't tell me...

BART

Uh-oh, here comes a Xylon cruiser.

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Go into
hyperspace! Ready, hit it!

GRAMPA

Wait. Where's the Hyperspace?

BART

Grampa, you're the spaceship, not
the...

GRAMPA

I'm the what? I thought I was this
guy. Ohhh.

Grampa's ship **BLOWS UP** in a **FIERY CRASH**. The words "GAME
OVER" appear ON SCREEN.

BART

(GROANS) Game's over, Grampa.

GRAMPA

(BITTERLY) I got down on the floor
for this?

Lisa and Homer enter. Lisa stops Homer as he heads for the
kitchen.

LISA

Wait, Dad, I've got something for
you.

She beckons and Homer leans down. Lisa **KISSES** him on the
cheek. Homer exits, **MUTTERING**.

HOMER

(TO SELF) I was hoping it'd be
money.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE THAT NIGHT

Homer and Marge are going through the family finances.
Marge has files full of bills in front of her.

MARGE

Hmm, oh dear, we're in serious
trouble here. We're just going to
have to cut down on luxuries.

HOMER

Well you know, we're always buying
Maggie vaccinations for diseases she
doesn't even have.

MARGE

Actually, I was thinking we could cut
down on your beer.

HOMER

Nah, we're not gonna be doing that.

MARGE

Well, then maybe you should consider
giving the pony back.

HOMER

First you didn't want me to get the
pony. Now, you want me to take it
back. Make up your mind.

MARGE

Alright, then. I guess you're just
going to have to come up with more
money.

HOMER

Fine. I will. There's plenty of
money out there for a guy who knows
how to make it. (BEAT) Do you have
any jewelry you don't need any more?

Marge MURMURS.

INT. STABLE - AFTER SCHOOL

We see Lisa from behind, brushing the horse. She steps back -- the pony is immaculately groomed, with a braided mane.

LISA

You're so beautiful.

REVERSE ANGLE

Lisa is filthy from the effort, her face covered with dirt.

LISA (CONT'D)

Oh look. You haven't touched your
salt lick. Num num, good salt lick.

Lisa crawls on the stable floor, demonstrating how to lick the salt lick. The pony licks along with her.

INT. QUIK-E-MART - NIGHT

HOMER

One Scratch-for-Cash, please.

APU hands him a lottery ticket. Homer **SCRATCHES** at it.

APU

Here you go.

HOMER

Liberty Bell... (GASPS) Two Liberty
Bells... come on, come on, come on...
Yes! Whoo-hoo! Three Liberty Bells!
(SLYLY) That'll be one thousand
dollars, Apu.

APU

Oh congratulations, Mr. Homer!

HOMER

Thank you.

APU

If I could just see the ticket...

HOMER

There it is.

Homer holds up the ticket -- there are two Liberty Bells.
Homer's thumb covers the third space.

APU

Dah, please to be removing your
thumb.

HOMER

No.

APU

Yes. Please, I must insist...

HOMER

No! No!

APU

I've got to look at the ticket

HOMER

No! You can't see... come on!

APU

Yes, I must...

HOMER

No!

They **WRESTLE** over the ticket, **GRUNTING** and **STRAINING**. Apu
pries Homer's thumb away, and we see a cherry.

HOMER

Let go. You're ripping it.

APU (CONT'D)

(GASPS) A cherry! Oh, Mr. Homer,
what has reduced you to such cheap
chicanery?

HOMER

Ohh... I need money.

Homer looks down sadly, then sees a "HELP WANTED" sign.

HOMER (CONT'D)

You're looking for help?

APU

Yes. We need someone for the
demanding, yet high-profile midnight
to eight a.m. shift.

HOMER

I'm your man!

APU

You're hired.

HOMER

Woo-hoo!

APU

(PROUDLY) Always I dreamed the day
would come when one of you would be
working for me!

EXT. STABLE - DAY

Lisa's FRIENDS are watching as she uses her pony to jump
small hedges. They **APPLAUD**.

KEVIN

She certainly tamed that horse.

RALPH

Yes, but what man can tame her?

INT. QUIK-E-MART - EVENING

Homer is in a Quik-E-Mart uniform with a big "TRAINEE" badge.

APU

I won't lie to you. On this job you
will be shot at.

He opens his shirt to reveal several bullet wounds.

APU (CONT'D)

Each of these bullet wounds is a
badge of honor.

HOMER

(TAKING NOTES) ...Badge of honor.

APU

Here's a pointer: try to take it in
the shoulder.

Apu walks over to the Heat Lamp Dog warmer.

APU (CONT'D)

Now, these hot dogs have been here
for three years. They are strictly
ornamental. (CHUCKLES) There's only
one bozo who comes in and buys them.

HOMER

But I eat... (REALIZING) Oh.

INT. SIMPSON KITCHEN - MORNING

Homer is gingerly sneaking in the back door.

HOMER

Heh heh, the perfect crime.

PULL BACK to reveal the family at breakfast, staring at him.

MARGE

Homer, where have you been? I was so worried.

HOMER

Marge, could we go in the other room? I did something last night I'm not proud of and I don't want the kids to hear it.

BART

Busted!

Homer and Marge exit.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

HOMER

I'll work from midnight to eight, come home, sleep for five minutes, eat breakfast, sleep six more minutes, shower, then I have ten minutes to spend as I please. Then I'm off to the power plant, fresh as a daisy.

MARGE

Homie, how long do you plan to do this?

HOMER

Oh, I don't know. How long do horses
live?

MARGE

Thirty years.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kids cringe, hearing Homer's MUFFLED YELLING through
the door. Suddenly Homer stops short.

SFX: BODY FALL

LISA

Oh my God, she killed him.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The kids run in to see Homer asleep on the floor, SNORING
LOUDLY.

MONTAGE

1) Homer is working at the Quik-E-Mart. He looks around,
then steals a beef jerky.

HOMER

Mmm... salty.

Homer looks around, then washes it down by drinking Blue
Squishee mix right from the nozzle. Apu enters, startling
him.

APU

Homer, are you stealing Squishees?

Homer replies, revealing his tongue is blue.

HOMER

No sir.

2) Lisa is at the stables. She's finishing playing a song for her horse on her saxophone.

LISA

This next song is also about a girl
and her pony. It's called
"Wildfire."

We HEAR the opening notes to "WILDFIRE" by Michael Murphy.

3) A young teenage BOY walks up to a sleepy Homer at the counter with a sixpack of beer.

BOY

(TEENAGE VOICE) Yeah, six pack of
malt liquor please.

HOMER

Let me see some I.D.

The boy hands him a driver's license with Jasper's picture on it. A bleary-eyed Homer compares it to the boy.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's you all right.

4) Homer is asleep at the nuclear plant console. His hand is frozen a few inches from his open mouth, holding a donut. Smithers walks by.

SMITHERS

Simpson, get to work.

Homer CHOMPS at the donut industriously. He opens his eyes. They are incredibly bloodshot.

5) Apu is in bed with PRINCESS CASHMERE. They are in a bizarre, intricate Kama Sutra position.

PRINCESS CASHMERE

Come on, Apu honey, loosen up.

APU

(MOANING) I'm sorry, baby. While I
am here pleasuring you, my store is
going down the tubes.

PRINCESS CASHMERE

(SIGHS)

6) Homer is watching TV in the living room. His eyes are
incredibly bloodshot.

MAYOR DIAMOND JOE QUIMBY comes on.

QUIMBY (ON TV)

To make good on my campaign promise
to soak the rich, I'm proud to
announce my new tax on pony owners.

HOMER

(LOW MOAN)

7) CLOSE ON QUIK-E-MART CLOCK which reads 2 A.M. PAN DOWN
to see Homer asleep on the counter SNORING. NED FLANDERS
quietly counts out money for his groceries, trying not to
disturb Homer.

FLANDERS

(QUIETLY) Three dollars and fifty-
one... fifty-two... fifty-three
cents.

Flanders exits as Apu enters with Princess Cashmere on his
arm. He is shocked to see the sleeping Homer.

APU (CONT'D)

(SHARPLY) Homer! You are asleep at
your post! Now go change the
expiration dates on the dairy
products.

HOMER

(QUIETLY) Yes sir.

Homer groggily gets up from behind the counter and heads out.

APU

(TO PRINCESS CASHMERE) Sorry baby,
date's over.

Shaking his head, Apu gets behind the counter.

SFX: DOORS BANGING

Apu looks up to see Homer lying asleep in the doorway. The automatic doors repeatedly **BANG** him in the head.

INT. HOMER'S CAR - 8 A.M.

Homer is sleepily driving home.

HOMER'S POV

We see the road as Homer drives. Homer's eyelids repeatedly begin to close, blocking out the screen. Then the screen goes **BLACK** for a beat. When his eyes reopen, we are in Homer's dream. It is night. All the **CARS** on the road have been replaced by **MOVING BEDS** with **PEOPLE** sleeping in them. A bunk bed **HONKS** like a diesel truck and goes past him.

MUSIC: "GOLDEN SLUMBERS" BY THE BEATLES

Homer passes a sign reading: "Now Entering Dreamland: Gas, Food, Beds." The car **SAILS** off a cliff, but before it can fall **ANGELS** grab the car and hold it aloft. The **MAN IN THE MOON** winks at Homer.

EXT. HOMER'S CAR

We see a sleeping Homer at the wheel. The car, dragging a section of fence behind it, barrels into the Simpson garage. It fishtails sideways **SLAMMING** into the wall. As Homer wearily climbs out of the car, a power saw falls off the shelf sideways, **HITTING** him on the head.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

The family is watching TV. Bart and Lisa are in their pajamas.

ON TV

ELDERLY TALK SHOW HOST

I just heard Milli Vanilli was
arrested for impersonating a
McNugget...

We HEAR a THUNDEROUS LAUGH from an ELDERLY TALK SHOW HOST'S
SIDEKICK. Bart and Lisa exchange a puzzled look.

ELDERLY TALK SHOW HOST (CONT'D)

No, this is true.

BART

Well, it's still fun to be up late.

A zombie-like Homer walks to the front door.

BART (CONT'D)

Hey, Homer, where you going?

HOMER

Going to... (LONG BEAT) bar.

Homer exits. They exchange another puzzled look.

SFX: CONTINUOUS HORN HONK

The family heads for the garage.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

They come out to see Homer asleep on the horn.

MARGE

Homer. Homer!

Homer lifts his head from the wheel.

HOMER

(ZOMBIE-LIKE) Homer sleep now.

He BANGS his fist real hard on the dashboard releasing the
airbag. He leans forward and rests his head on the airbag
as if it were a pillow.

LISA

What's wrong with Dad?

MARGE

He's just exhausted. Lisa, do you know how much it costs to keep a pony?

LISA

No.

MARGE

Well, it's a lot. More than we can afford. In fact, your father had to take a second job.

LISA

(SHAKEN) He did?

BART

(SINCERELY) The poor guy. Where's he working?

MARGE

The Quik-E-Mart.

BART

(LAUGHS HEARTILY)

MARGE

Lisa, I hope you realize that your father can't keep this up.

LISA

(DESPERATE) Wait! I see where this is going. You're going to make me give up Princess. Well, you can't make me. I love her, and I won't let...

MARGE

Lisa, you're right. We can't make you give up that pony.

BART

(SMACKING HIS FIST) I can make her. Just give me five minutes alone with her.

MARGE

No, Bart. No one's going to make her. This is something Lisa has to decide for herself.

LISA

All the years I've lobbied to be treated like an adult have blown up in my face.

CLOSE UP

On Lisa.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. QUIK-E-MART - NEXT MORNING - 7 A.M.

Lisa's looking in the window. She sees Bart inside tormenting Homer.

INT. QUIK-E-MART - CONTINUOUS

BART

Hey, (WHISTLES) pink hat, when I
ordered that blueberry squishee, I
meant today.

HOMER

Coming right up, sir.

BART

And fill it to the top this time.

(LAUGHS)

HOMER

Yes, sir.

From outside the window Lisa SIGHS.

INT. STABLES - 7:30 A.M.

Lisa pays a last visit to her horse. Millicent is with
her.

LISA

(TO MILLICENT, TEARY EYED) She likes
a little carrot after her oats. And
she really likes it when you scratch
her behind the ear. And if you're
playing the radio, she likes
contemporary adult in the morning and
easy listening at night. Please take
good care of my Princess.

MILLICENT

Although there is no change in my
patrician facade, I can assure you my
heart is breaking.

Millicent exits. Lisa hugs the pony.

LISA

I was the perfect age, and you were
the perfect horse. I'll never forget
you.

Lisa reaches up and scratches behind its ears. The pony
WHINNIES in appreciation.

INT. QUIK-E-MART - 8 A.M.

Apu is CHEWING out Homer at the end of his shift. Apu is
holding up the nacho tray.

APU

What--- wha, da, you call this melted
cheese receptacle clean? Eh, the
young man you replaced is rolling
over in his grave.

Lisa walks in.

LISA

Dad, you don't have to do this.

HOMER

(AS IF TO A CHILD) Yes I do. You see
Lisa, grownups have a thing called
money...

LISA

Dad, I understand the sacrifice
you've made for me. That's why I
gave up the pony.

HOMER

You did?

LISA

Hmmm hmmm. There's a big dumb animal
I love even more than that horse.

HOMER

Oh no! I am not getting you a
hippopotamus!

LISA

I mean you, you dummy.

HOMER

Ahhh.

They hug.

HOMER

Apu. You can take this job and shove
it!

APU

What d'you mean?

HOMER

I mean... I quit! From now on, when
I fall asleep on the job, it'll be
because I want to.

Homer carries Lisa out piggy-back style. Lisa LAUGHS.

LISA

Giddyup, Dad.

HOMER

(LAUGHING)

LISA

(GIGGLES)

APU

(TO HIMSELF) He slept, he stole, he
was rude to the customers... still,
there goes the best damn employee a
convenience store ever had.

FADE OUT.

THE END